

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02
L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 IO-14 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 ISO-00
NSC-05 XMB-04 /158 W
-----088331 221957Z /40

R 221814Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7561
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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USOECD USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING ON MEAT

1. UNCTAD FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING ON MEAT HELD
MARCH 20-22, 1978. AFTER ELECTION OF OFFICERS (NGANGA
OF KENYA, CHAIRMAN AND POSWICK OF BELGIUM, VICE-CHAIRMAN
CUM RAPPORTEUR) UNCTAD COMMODITIES CHIEF (MCINTYRE)
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GAVE BRIEF OUTLINE OF SECRETARIAT REPORT ON MEAT TRADE
HIGHLIGHTING THOSE POINTS HE FELT IMPORTANT FOR LDC
MEAT PRODUCERS. HE MADE REFERENCE TO TALKS ON MEAT
GOING ON IN THE MTN BUT SAID NO SOLUTIONS HAD YET BEEN
AGREED UPON AND HOPED OUTCOME OF UNCTAD MEETING WOULD
CONTRIBUTE TO THOSE TALKS. UNCTAD PROPOSALS, HE FELT,
FELL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OTHER ONGOING DISCUSSIONS

AND THUS WERE COMPLIMENTARY IN NATURE. THIS THEME REPEATED OFTEN BY LDC DELEGATES. UNCTAD MEETING WOULD ALSO GIVE THOSE COUNTRIES NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE MTN THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE THEIR VIEWS. THE RAPID DECLINE IN LDC PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS MADE IT MANDATORY, MCINTYRE SAID, THAT THESE COUNTRIES PRESENT THEIR VIEWS NOW.

2. UNCTAD TASK FORCE HEAD (ADAMS), COMMENTING ON REPORT, POINTED TO LDC OBJECTIVES WHICH IN KEEPING WITH RESOLUTION 93(IV) WERE (A) GREATER ACCESS TO MARKETS AND SECURITY OF SUPPLIES, (B) GREATER STANDARDIZATION OF HEALTH AND SANITARY CODES, (C) AGREEMENT ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND SAFEGUARD ACTION, AND (D) IMPROVED CONSULTATIONS AND COORDINATION PROCEDURES.

3. AT REQUEST OF NUMBER OF AFRICAN DELEGATES REPORT OF UNCTAD ORGANIZED SEMINAR ON MEAT TRADE HELD IN NAIROBI 1-3 MARCH 1978 INCLUDED AS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR DISCUSSION BY DELEGATES. SEMINAR PAPER WHICH OUTLINES OBSTACLES TO GREATER AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE TABLED AS OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.

4. COMMENTING ON PROPOSALS SET OUT IN SECRETARIAT REPORT, EC COMMISSION DELEGATE (ORIGER) SAID COMMUNITY ALSO CONCERNED WITH GREATER STABILITY IN MARKET BUT DUE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HETEROGENEOUS NATURE OF PRODUCT IT DID NOT LEND ITSELF TO CLASSICAL COMMODITY AGREEMENT TYPE SOLUTIONS. EC PREPARED TO LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS, HOWEVER, AND ITS PROPOSAL IN THE MTN FOR MEAT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. EC DEL COMMENTED FREQUENTLY, HOWEVER, THAT HE VIEWED UNCTAD MEETING AS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE BUT NOT AS A NEGOTIATING SESSION. YUGOSLAV DEL WAS VERY ACTIVE IN MEETING FREQUENTLY CHALLENGING EC POSITIONS. OTHER DELS MAINLY REITERATED FAMILIAR MTN POSITIONS. IN RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION BY U.S. DEL WHO QUESTIONED USEFULNESS OF DETAILED REVIEW OF ISSUES IN UNCTAD GIVEN NEGOTIATIONS ON MEAT TRADE GOING ON IN OTHER FORA, CHAIR RESPONDED THAT MEETING WOULD HOPEFULLY GIVE IMPETUS TO OTHER TALKS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO DISCUSSION OF BEEF PRICE FLUCTUATIONS IN WHICH NUMBER OF LDC DELEGATES EXPRESSED NEED TO STABILIZE PRICES, U.S. DEL CAUTIONED AGAINST DRAWING TOO MANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT MARKET FROM ONE PRICE SERIES CONTAINED IN SECRETARIAT REPORT AND THAT 1972-76 PERIOD IN WHICH INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED ERRATIC PRICE FLUCTUATIONS

FAIRLY ATYPICAL AND GENERAL TO MANY COMMODITIES IN THAT SAME PERIOD. CANADIAN DEL POINTED TO SECTION OF SECRETARIAT REPORT ON HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS WHICH CHARACTERIZED CANADIAN REGULATIONS AS BEING PARTICULARLY STRINGENT AND SAID THAT LIKE THOSE OF U.S., AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES THEY WERE INTENDED TO PREVENT THE ENTRY OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE INTO CANADA. U.S. DEL ALSO QUESTIONED IMPLICATIONS IN DOCUMENTS THAT SUCH REGULATIONS WERE ARBITRARY OR USED CAPRICIOUSLY AS IMPORT REGULATOR. JAPANESE DEL STRESSED THAT REGULATIONS PER SE WERE NOT NEGOTIABLE. HE FELT IT BEST TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT BY SPECIALIZED GROUPS IN THE MTN.

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 ISO-00
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-----088297 221958Z /40

R 221814Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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6. DISCUSSION TERMINATED WITH STATEMENT BY TANZANIAN

DELEGATE WHO POINTED TO NEED BY HIS COUNTRY FOR ASSISTANCE
IN ERADICATING ANIMAL DISEASE AND CREATION OF DISEASE-FREE
ZONES. HE AGREED THAT DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AMONG INTER-
NATIONAL BODIES DEALING WITH MEAT TRADE SHOULD BE AVOIDED,
BUT THAT UNCTAD DELIBERATIONS ON MEAT WERE NOT AN EFFORT
TO FORCE ANYONE INTO AN AGREEMENT. KENYA, AUSTRALIAN,
JAPANESE, CANADIAN DELS AND OTHERS AGREED THAT FURTHER
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TALKS ON MEAT TRADE SHOULD AWAIT OUTCOME OF THE MTN.

7. OUTCOME OF SESSION WAS BRIEF COMMUNIQUE-TYPE REPORT
(SEPTEL) NOTING PROBLEMS AND RECOGNIZING ONGOING WORK IN
OTHER FORA. QUESTION OF TIMING OF FURTHER MEETING LEFT
OPEN PENDING DEVELOPMENTS IN MTN NEGOTIATIONS ON MEAT.
MEETING THUS SERVED PURPOSE OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR
AFRICANS TO BEGIN DEVELOPING COORDINATED APPROACH ON MEAT
AND, ALONG WITH LATIN AMERICANS, TO SERVE NOTICE TO MTN
THAT FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT THERE WOULD MEAN MEAT
ISSUE BEING PURSUED FURTHER IN UNCTAD. PERHAPS MOST
NOTABLE FEATURE WAS LOW-KEY, STRAIGHTFORWARD APPROACH
TAKEN BY LDC EXPORTERS WHO WERE AS WILLING AS EVERYONE
ELSE TO WRAP UP MEETING IN TWO DAYS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA04416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0860
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780339/aaaabgig.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec6ac1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3242804
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING ON MEAT
TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec6ac1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014